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C O N F I D E N T I A L YEREVAN 000398

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR EUR/CACEN EUGENIA SIDEREAS, IO, WHA/CCA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/18/2014

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [AM](#) [UNGA](#)

SUBJECT: SEEING EYE TO EYE WITH THE GOAM ON UNCHR, UNGA
ISSUES

REF: DUBLIN 00135

Classified By: Ambassador John Ordway for Reasons 1.5 (b) and (d).

GOAM WITH US ON CUBA?

11. (C) We discussed UNCHR issues and ways to more effectively pursue continuing USG policy priorities at the UN with MFA UN Division Chief Artak Apitonian February 11 (reftel). Apitonian credited the apparent decline in USG-GOAM voting coincidence during the 58th UNGA as a reaction to "more aggressive USG multilateral approaches on the Middle East" rather than fundamental disagreements on policy. He emphasized the GOAM's previous voting record and 2003 record on disarmament issues as indicative of an overall cooperative relationship with the USG in Geneva and New York. He predicted that the GOAM would support more USG initiatives during 2004 through fewer abstention votes and possible co-sponsorship of key resolutions. He hinted that the GOAM might be able to support the USG on this year's Cuba resolution if approached with enough advance notice.

EARLIER DEMARCHES USEFUL

12. (C) Apitonian said there was broad agreement among GOAM representatives in Yerevan and New York that the proposed Democracy Caucus would offer a "less politicized" forum in which the GOAM could openly support USG-proposed measures without the fear of pressure or backlash from the Non-Aligned States (NAS). He suggested, however, that the USG could better engage the GOAM on CHR issues this year if it would demarche the MFA, in addition to representatives in Geneva, earlier in the process. He claimed that the FM and Deputy Ministers had been increasingly active on multilateral issues over the past year and predicted a relative decline in the importance of the GOAM's missions in Geneva and New York as this trend continues.

COMMENT

13. (C) The MFA's heightened interest in multilateral mechanics is due in part to Armenia's current candidature for re-election to the CHR, which the GOAM views as its highest profile ambition on the multilateral scene. The MFA's multilateral department is at long last fully staffed and generally responsive to Embassy requests. Engaging early and often with the MFA will no doubt help counterbalance voting pressure from the NAS and European countries. Post requests Department assistance in identifying which issues it can preview with the GOAM to lay the groundwork for better CHR and UNGA cooperation this year.
ORDWAY